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VOL. II.

No. 21.

RELIGIOUS DEPARTMENT.

FOREIGN.

INDIA.

Extract of the Journal of the Missionaries
Barre and Rhenius, employed by the
(London) Church Missionary Society,
from December 1814 to July 1815.

(Continued from page 87.)

AT MADRAS.

March 8.—Walking early in the morning in the garden, I found a man gathering from the shrubs round our house, ornamenting their gods. I asked him if he did so. He said for the Swami (Lord). I entered then into conversation with the folly of serving gods that have ears, cannot hear; mouths, but cannot speak; and eyes, but cannot see; and told him the reasonable service of God Jesus Christ. He listened with attention and assented to what I said about the

Whilst I spoke with him, another came near, and heard too. I after took the former to our house, and, while he read Tamil, I presented him with a tract.

March 9.—I visited the school in the small village, Raypooram, which will be removed into our garden, and will be tolerably to my satisfaction. Roman-Catholic Priest lives not far from the school; I therefore took the liberty of visiting him. I found two priests, whom had lately come hither. I consulted them with the design of our school, and was received in a friendly manner. In a conversation about the service of God, I asked, among other things, whether they permitted their congregations to read the Scriptures. "Yes," said one; and "there is no prohibition," said the other. I expressed my satisfaction, and inquired whether they had Tamil Testaments: they said they had not; and at the same time, that they could not understand the Word of God intimating thereby, that they, therefore, should not read it. I replied, the Word of God is constructed in a wonderful manner, that even the most ignorant person might understand all that belonged to the salvation of the soul, which was plainly and expressively represented in the holy scriptures; and the greatest philosophers themselves might find in them the depth of wisdom. I apprised them, at the same time, that I had Tamil Testaments enough for myself; upon which they intimated it is no proper translation; but soon off. I assured them that we had come to this country for the purpose of being known among the people the propagation of our Lord Jesus Christ; that we wished to be in union with no great a design, assisting one another therein. Mr. Vitrinny shook hands with me, and I left them.

March 17.—I saw again the two Mahomedans living at the end of our garden, and had a little conversation with them on ground upon which we may rest when we come!—It is our continual prayer to prepare our ways before us. April 3.—Hitherto we have distributed fifteen Tamil New Testaments, among Roman Catholics, who received them. In general, we let every one read a passage or two of the Word of God, selecting such as bear more directly to the truth, especially with regard to the corrupt tenets of the Romish church. By this means we hear how to read, and obtain a fair opportunity of making some remarks on what they have done. Those that cannot read do not repeat.

April 6.—We received an answer from Mr. Robertson, in the name of the Corresponding Committee, to our letter of the 18th of January. Its contents were pleasing and encouraging. It appears that at Malabar, observing the apostolical Paul preached at Antioch, Corinth, and Rome, great cities of the earth, the Lord had much people prepared for his kingdom of God; so may it be in Madras." With regard to our school plans, they can at present do nothing, on account of the cost of extensive plans at Calcutta.

April 8.—A lame Brahmin came, and informed us of his poverty, requesting assistance. He said he understood English; and that he knew little English; and, in an extra-

ordinary manner, had been advised to come to us for relief. "How that will be," said he, "I do not know: if you will give me to day something, and dismiss me, in order to provide rice for myself, my wife, and children, tomorrow I will come back again, and on other days, to hear your instructions." I suspected his cunningness, and spoke to him on men's seeking bodily relief, but caring nothing for their souls, or for the knowledge of their God. He seemed to think himself very virtuous; and was utterly deficient in the knowledge of sin. To the question, what he thought on their religion and gods, he replied, "It is road: if we do right, and do not sin, we shall go to heaven."—I explained to him what sin is; to which he replied, "You are right: I will hear your instructions."—The sincerity of the man is much to be doubted; however, we relieved him for the day, in the hope of seeing him again. He has six children.

April 11.—The Brahmin has not been here yet.—A respectable native, a friend to our landlord, met me to-day in the school house, which is nearly finished. I got into a long conversation with him on religious subjects, on schools, and on the purpose of our coming hither; and, afterward, on the duty which lies upon those of their own caste, and of the Brahmins, that have conviction of the truth, to step forward and lead their deceived brethren into the same way of truth. He heard with apparent pleasure. He greatly approved of the establishment of schools; and was sure that the natives wish to be instructed. His old mother, he said, is very desirous of hearing the truth. She possesses a New Testament, which somebody reads to her, and she hears it with pleasure.

April 12.—We held, this evening, the first religious meeting in our house. Some of the Roman Catholic Christians, had applied for Old Testaments, which however we could not give them, having but few copies: and there is not yet any prospect of its being reprinted. I proposed, therefore, to hold, every Wednesday evening, an Old Testament lecture, which they might attend, if they wished. About fifteen persons were assembled; but, of the Roman Catholics, only one, a boy. I began with the first chapter of Genesis. May God graciously grant his blessing on this small beginning!

April 14.—Having had several applications from a native Christian, who formerly attended Dr. Buchanan on his tour to the Travancore coast, for employment as English Schoolmaster in our school; because he could not live by the income of about twelve (heathen) scholars, whom he had hitherto instructed in the English language in a neighboring village; we resolved, rather than to let that little school be scattered, to take it entirely under our care. I proceeded, therefore, to Mr. Thompson, to confer with him on the subject, especially whether they would assist us in paying the necessary schoolmasters. Their fund is still small, and not sufficient to pay two more schoolmasters; but we agreed to attach that school to our Mission, and to let the schoolmaster go on at present as before; and to assist him in paying the rent for his school-room, and add something to his income.

We received likewise from Mr. Thompson ten pagodas, charity money, for the use of the poor; for various are the applications of native Christians for relief in their distress. To some, in order to accustom them also to diligence, we have given some work, for which we daily pay them. Hitherto we have defrayed something of such expences from the money which we received for Bibles and Testaments in Tranquebar. We praise the Lord for his gracious providence, and for the manifold tokens of his goodness.

April 15.—We received, from our friends, some English publications of last year, including the Report of our Society for 1814. The perusal brought us much refreshment. With joy and admiration do we contemplate the vast efforts which are made for the spread of the gospel. Turning from the east to the west, from the north to the south;—seeing that the Siberian, the inhabitant of Caucasus, the Russian, the Esquimaux, the North-American Indian, the Chinese, the Hindoo, the African, and the South-American, with the Wild Peru, the Eastern and the Western Seas, receive, in a greater or less degree, the Word of the Cross; and that England, especially, shines brightly among the nations of Europe in establishing such various and numerous societies for the good of the world;—our hearts are drawn upward, and would fain present unto God our feeble thanks for the blessed days in which he has caused us to live, to see his mighty arm stretched forth to fulfil his ancient promise that all the earth shall see his salvation: and we are not a little encouraged to work by his grace whilst it is day, in the sphere which he has graciously assigned to us, to praise the Lord, and exalt his name among the heathen.

April 18.—A good part of some of the former days I had to spend my time in examining Roman Catholics, who applied for Tamil Testaments; and, according to circumstances, distributing the blessed gift among them; attending it with some observations on the principal errors of

their church. To day, likewise, an unusual number surrounded my table, and I went on as before. About twenty-nine Testaments were distributed on this occasion: several were obliged to return empty, my treasury being exhausted. One or two of the persons endeavored to defend the worship of images. Reminding them of the Jews making the golden calf, and of the great displeasure which God manifested thereon; and of the word of our Lord to the Samaritan woman, *They that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth*; they seemed to be silenced; and many gave their assent to the truth.

How dark their understanding, and what idle impressions they receive, we may gather from their arguments in support of their idolatry. One of them is, that they have scriptural authority, quoting the 148th Psalm, where the Psalmist calls forth all the creatures of God to praise their Maker. Hitherto seventy-eight Testaments have been distributed. Though we cannot but fear that much of this seed has fallen on stony ground, or among thorns, or by the way; yet some, we humbly trust, will, by the grace of God, have fallen on good ground, the fruit of which will appear in its time.

In the afternoon, a Roman Catholic requested me to instruct him in the Word of God, which I did; but, the day after, he proved a hypocrite and a deceiver.

(To be continued.)

THE JEWS.

[From the (London) Jewish Expositor, of February, 1817, received at the Recorder-Office.]

Extract of a letter from DR. NAUJI, of Malta, to C. S. Hawtrey, Secretary of the London Society for the Conversion of the Jews.

Dear Sir,—I take the liberty to write to you, for the first time, as a Secretary of that benevolent Society for the promotion of Christianity amongst the Jews. Having had late your last Seventh Report of the Committee, I was able to know your present direction of proceedings; so I hope to be able to correspond regularly with the Society, and give her the accounts I may occasionally learn regarding the Jews living here and in our neighboring parts. There are many at Algiers, one of the chief towns on the coast of Barbary famous for piracy, where revolutions and rebellions succeed often, and where late the English army and Lord Exmouth's navy were for subduing the Dey and destroying his kingdom. Among the reports we had about the actions which took place at the English invasion, I had some about the present state of the Jews in that place. The Jews, as you may likely know, live in great numbers on the northern coasts of Africa: as at Tripoli, Tunis, Algiers; and they are everywhere rich and opulent, on account of their doing all the business and commerce among the Turks, who in general are more ignorant than themselves, and uncivilized. I do not mean to give you the account of their situation in all those parts, but shortly some hints of their present state at Algiers. No where in Barbary was the Hebrew nation more free and better considered, than they were at Algiers about the year 1804. At that epoch, very remarkable for the Algerine Jews, a tumultuous rebellion rose up in the neighborhood of the town, and the Jews were unjustly charged with the crime. The traitorous promoters were persons in the government, and nearly intimate with the Dey too; but as some of these gentlemen borrowed money from a merchant Jew, the Jews were considered as the perpetrators notwithstanding they were not concerned at all in the affair. The sultan's reasons were; that had it not been for the Jewish money, the riot in all probability would not have taken place; ergo, the Jews should be considered as the true revolutionists: *causa causa eat causa causati*, which, I am sure, in the case of the Jews in 1804, was a very unjust induction. They were therefore taken away, tortured, and racked in a variety of barbarous ways, and made to suffer every kind of torment, particularly that most terrible one of being suspended alive by a long rope on the outside of the tower walls, having hooked nails thrust into different parts of the body, often under the chin bone, so as to suspend the body perpendicularly. Several hundreds lost their lives in this desperate way; others were punished by burning, some by stripes; and the greater part, by confiscation of their goods and properties, were reduced to a state of poverty. Those who had something to lose suffered by this latter means; and bastinadoes, gibbets, and impaling, as is generally the case in all despotic countries, were administered to those who had nothing to lose. This contingency was the cause of great migrations of the Jewish people from Algiers to other parts of Barbary, particularly to Tunis. Numbers of the more religious among them, imputing the general persecution to an advice, or warning from heaven, to leave distant countries, and concentrate in the Levantine parts, resort to Palestine and to the neighborhood of Jerusalem, as if the time of their restoration was at hand.

The state of the Jews at this present time in Algiers is as follows: there are about nine thousand; and several synagogues; but the principals are eight, viz. 1. the synagogue called Suchira, 2. the Hara, 3. Tavet la-houn, 4. Lachira, 5. Talmud tora Iscibechi, 6. Dor suktosa, 7. Tunabdar Aznizar, 8. Dor Hasnar. There are several other synagogues privately kept by individuals. At Algiers the Jews are directed by one of their nation, who is with them as a despotic king: he is an inappellable judge in controversies, is elected immediately from the Dey, and his power extends over all the Jews within the Algerine territory. In inflicting punishments he is limited to the bastinado; the pain of life depends upon the Dey, who certainly disposes of it not very sparingly. The customs of the Algerine Jews are the most polite of any of those who live in Barbary, they are undoubtedly the richest. Before the year 1804, they enjoyed a number of privileges, so as scarcely to be distinguished from the natives and other foreigners, of which they are now deprived. The ceremonies and rites of the Jews of Algiers, are nearly similar to those of the Jews of other parts. The main difference to be remarked is, that these may have three wives at a time, whom they may repudiate in an instant, without adducing any other reason than their own will. Repudiations happen not very rarely among them. They do this and give it too a religious aspect; such as, they repudiate their wives that they may be better able to look after their duties, by living a simple and more religious and quiet life; but this iniquity is often thought to exist where it is not in reality, and of course wives are left without any reason whatever. In the migration of 1804, great numbers so left their families, who, on their following them, were received at Palestine with kindness. There are several Rabbins, who are maintained from the common funds. The questions and differences between one Jew and another, where the natives, or people of other denominations are not concerned, are decided by the Rabbins, who certainly in their decisions are not the most delicate in investigating truth. At Algiers the Jews pay weekly a tribute of two hundred Spanish dollars to government. The present chief of the Jews at Algiers is Mr. Jacob Cray Bacri. The commerce of the Algerine Jews is not confined to Barbary, but extends to all parts of Italy, particularly to Leghorn. The town of Algiers is large, well watered, the streets are straight but too narrow, the harbor is small but commodious. The country around is beautiful, very fertile, abounding with fruits, and victuals are in good price. Being persuaded of what your Society may advantageously do if its interests and proceedings increase, I shall never fail to do all in my power towards informing you of what may be convenient necessarily, as to promote in some way the spiritual happiness of our fellow creatures. The Jews in these Mediterranean parts, where they are most crowded, and live in the darkest state of ignorance. Here I would make some observations about their present state, if the limits of a letter could allow me it. But I advance to you with pleasure, that the Jews of this present time are not very pertinacious as they were in times past, and that when once converted to Christianity, they prove good pious characters, the most active members of the Church of Christ; and in Barbary, and in the Levant, are well fitted to promote the spiritual welfare of their late fellows and brethren the Jews: of this we have good example in the person of Mr. Murtheim, of Mr. Sham, Cavapeti, and many others, who are so happily employed in the promotion of the common cause, in different parts of Africa and Asia, and in the islands; but more particularly Mr. Murtheim, so useful a member of the Christian faith, and who was persuaded to the truth, as you probably know, through the means of your Society. A member of my Portuguese congregation came to me, last week, and said, "I am acquainted with some Chinese, who generally come to me twice a week, when the word of God is the theme of our conversation; they have read the Chinese New Testament, and find the contents of it of far greater excellence than those of any other book they have ever read; yet they do not understand every thing that is said in it, and therefore apply to me, to explain and clear up some passages which they cannot comprehend. I then give them such illustrations on the subject, as I recollect from your discourses. This Portuguese is one of my Catechumens, and, thanks be to God, I may say, that he is my crown, and the first fruit of my labors here. These Chinese have already turned their idols out of their houses, and are desirous of becoming Christians.

Another of my Portuguese pupils came to me a few days ago, and told me, "that a certain Chinese, who had read the New-Testament in his mother tongue, visits him three times a week, to converse about the doctrines of Christianity; he seems to love Jesus Christ better than Confucius, and wished I would give him a few more books in the Chinese language; he has, likewise, turned his paper idols out of his house, and is ardently desirous of becoming a Christian. I was lately on a visit to a gentleman, where one of the richest Chinese in this country was also a guest. He spoke to me in Dutch, and said, "I have read Mr. Morrison's New-Testament with pleasure; it is very fine, and it would be well if every one led such a life as Jesus Christ has taught them to lead." I cannot describe to you what effect these words spoken by the mouth of a Chinese, had upon me. I commenced a discourse with him about his many idols, and said, "You believe, by the doctrines of Confucius, that there is but one God who has made heaven, the earth, man, and every living creature." "Yes," answered he; "but God is too far above us; we dare not address ourselves to him, without the intervention of the demi-gods." I then said, "As God is the Creator of mankind, should we not, therefore, call him our common Father?" "Yes, certainly!" was his reply. "Yes, if this be admitted, are not children obliged to place confidence in their father?" Answer—"Most assuredly." "In what consists this trust?" His answer, "Are you a father of five sons?" "Yes," was

ing the Holy Bible throughout the world, for sending Missionaries among the nations, and yours for promoting Christianity amongst the Jewish people, who were once the elected nation, the people of God; that they may see the truth, perceive the eternal light of the gospel, and receive Jesus Christ their prophesied Saviour, our only hope and Mediator. A Jew from Tedoest, an ancient town in the province of Hea, in the Morocco empire, with whom I am often here, and to whom I gave some of your tracts, and the two gospels printed by the Society, assures me, that a little exertion paid in his country by some good active man, could produce great profit to that people. Tedoest contains about five hundred dwellings, and is the capital of the province. It was entirely destroyed about the beginning of the last century, and built again by the Jews, and now (which is very singular) is inhabited only by this people. The Tedoestine here with us, I am in hope, is not far from discovering the Gospel truths, and embracing publicly God Jesus, the anointed Saviour and the true Messiah.

CLEARDO NAUJI.

HEBREW TESTAMENT.

From the London Jewish Expositor, February, 1817.

We have much pleasure in announcing, that the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society being satisfied that a door is opening for the dispersion of the Hebrew New Testament amongst the Jews on the continent, have purchased of the London Society, one thousand copies of the Hebrew Gospels and Acts, with an intention of sending them to Poland, to be distributed amongst the numerous Israelites resident in that country. Assuredly they will be followed with the earnest prayers of all who wish well to the cause, that God may fulfil his own promise, and grant that "His word may not return unto him void, but that it may prosper in the thing whereto he sent it." We trust our readers will make this a daily subject of their petitions at the throne of grace.

THE CHINESE.

Extract from the Correspondence of the British and Foreign Bible Society.
Letter from the Rev. J. C. Supper, Secretary of the Java Auxiliary Bible Society, dated Batavia, August 12, 1816.

I have the pleasure, in the name of our Society, to assure you, that the contents of the highly esteemed letter of your Committee, as well as their present of 5000, caused an extraordinary sensation of joy, and greatly animated us to proceed in our labor.

The Chinese New Testaments, which the zealous Missionary, Mr. Milne (who is now in Malacca) distributed among the Chinese in this neighborhood, and those which I had the means of distributing, have been visibly attended with blessed effects. A member of my Portuguese congregation came to me, last week, and said, "I am acquainted with some Chinese, who generally come to me twice a week, when the word of God is the theme of our conversation; they have read the Chinese New Testament, and find the contents of it of far greater excellence than those of any other book they have ever read; yet they do not understand every thing that is said in it, and therefore apply to me, to explain and clear up some passages which they cannot comprehend. I then give them such illustrations on the subject, as I recollect from your discourses. This Portuguese is one of my Catechumens, and, thanks be to God, I may say, that he is my crown, and the first fruit of my labors here. These Chinese have already turned their paper idols out of their houses, and are desirous of becoming Christians.

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POETRY.

FORCE OF NATURE.

'Twas on a cliff, whose rocky base
Baffled the briny wave.
Whose cultur'd heights, their verdant store
To many a tenant gave :
A Mother led by rustic cares,
Had wander'd with her child,
Unwean'd the babe—yet on the grass,
He frolic'd and he smil'd.
With what delight the mother gaz'd
To mark the infant's joy,
How oft would pause amidst her toil,
To contemplate her boy !
Yet soon by other cares estrang'd,
Her thoughts the child forsok :
Careless he wander'd on the ground,
Nor caught his mother's look.
Cropp'd was each flow'r that caught his eye,
Till scrambling o'er the green,
He gain'd the cliff's unshelter'd edge,
And plead's survey'd the scene.
'Twas now the mother, from her toil,
Turn'd to behold her child,
The urchin gone—her cheeks were flush'd,
Her wand'ring eye was wild !
She saw him on the cliff's rude brink,
Now careless peeping o'er,
He turn'd, and to his mother smil'd,
Then sported as before.
Sunk was her voice—'twas vain to fly,
'Twas vain the brink to haw,
Oh ! NATURE ! it was thine alone,
To prompt the means to save ;
She tore her 'kerchief from her breast,
And laid her bosom bare,
He saw—delighted—left the brink,
And sought the banquet there.

MISCELLANY.

DR. FRANKLIN.

We have lately received a copy of the Private Correspondence of Dr. Franklin, just published in England, from the original letters. We are not able to say what proportion of the letters have been before published. They are exceedingly interesting, particularly to an American reader, and their republication, in this country, is expected with impatience. We copy from the collection a letter of Dr. Stiles, and the answer of Dr. Franklin, each of which was written but a short time before the death of their respective authors, and displays something of their several characters. The latter also contains an explicit declaration of Franklin's religious opinions, which have been the subject of some doubt and dispute.—*Daily Advertiser*.

Yale College, January 28, 1790.

Sir,—We have lately received Governor Yale's portrait from his family in London, and deposited it in the College Library, where it is also deposited one of Governor Saltonstall. I have long wished that we might be honored also with that of Dr. Franklin. In the course of your long life, you may probably have become possessed of several portraits of yourself. Shall I take too great a liberty, in humbly asking a donation of one of them to Yale College? You obliged me with a mezzotinto picture of yourself many years ago, which I often view with pleasure. But the canvas is more permanent. We wish to be possessed of the durable resemblance of the American Patriot and Philosopher.

You have merited and received all the honors of the republic of letters; and are going to a world, where all sublunary glories will be lost in the glories of immortality. Should you shine through the intellectual and stellar universe, with which you have appeared in this little detached part of the creation, you would be what I most fervently wish to you, Sir, whatever may be my fate in eternity. The grand climacteric in which I now am, reminds me of the interesting scenes of futurity. You know, Sir, that I am a Christian, and would to heaven all others were such as I am, except my imperfections and deficiencies of moral character. As much as I know of Dr. Franklin, I have not an idea of his religious sentiments. I wish to know the opinion of my venerable friend concerning Jesus of Nazareth. He will not impute this to impertinence, or improper curiosity, in one who for so many years has continued to love, estimate, and reverence his abilities and literary character, with an ardor and affection bordering on adoration. If I have said too much, let the request be blotted out, and be no more; and yet I shall never cease to wish you that happy immortality which I believe Jesus has above for the virtuous & truly good of every religion denominated in Christendom, and for those of every age, nation, and mythology, who reverence the deity, and are filled with integrity, righteousness and benevolence. Wishing you every blessing, I am, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

EZRA STILES.

His Excellency Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Philadelphia.

Answer of Dr. Franklin to the foregoing.

Philadelphia, March 9, 1790.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—I received your kind letter of Jan. 28, and am glad you have at length received the portrait of Gov. Yale from his family, and deposited it in the College Library. He was a great and good man, and had the merit of doing infinite service to your country by his munificence to that institution. The honor you propose doing me, by placing mine in the same room with his, is much too great for my deserts; but you always had a partiality for me, and to that it must be ascribed. I am however too much obliged to Yale College, the first learned society that took notice of me and adorned me with its honors, to refuse a request that comes from it, tho' so esteemed a friend. But I do not think any of the portraits you mention as in my possession worthy of the situation and company you propose to place it in. You have an excellent artist lately arrived. If he will undertake to make one for you, I shall cheerfully pay the expense; but he must not delay setting about it, or I may slip through his fingers, for I am now in my 85th year, and very infirm.

I send with this a very learned work, as it appears to me, on the ancient Samarian coins, lately printed in Spain; and at least curious for the beauty of the impression. Please to accept it for your College Library. I have subscribed for the Encyclopædia now printing here, with the intention of presenting it to the College. I shall probably depart before the work is finished, but shall leave directions for its continuance to the end. With this you will receive some of the first numbers.

You desire to know something of my religion. It is the first time I have been questioned upon it. But I cannot take your curiosity amiss, and shall endeavor in a few words to gratify it. Here is my creed: I believe in one God, the Creator of the Universe. That he governs it by his Providence. That he ought to be worshipped. That the most acceptable service we render to him is doing good to his other children. That the soul of man is immortal, and will be treated with justice in another life respecting its conduct in this. These I take to be the fundamental points in all sound religion; and I regard them as you do in whatever sect I meet with them. As to Jesus of Nazareth, my

opinion of whom you particularly desire, I think the system of morals, and his religion as he left them to us, the best the world ever saw, or is likely to see; but I apprehend it has received various corrupting changes, and I have, with most of the present dissenters in England, some doubts as to his divinity; though it is a question I do not dogmatize upon, having never studied it, and think it needless to busy myself with it now, when I expect soon an opportunity of knowing the truth with less trouble. I see no harm however in it being believed, if that belief has the good consequence, as probably it has, of making his doctrines more respected, and more observed, especially as I do not perceive that the Supreme takes it amiss, by distinguishing the believers in his government of the world with any peculiar marks of his displeasure. I shall only add, respecting myself, that having experienced the goodness of that being in conducting me prosperously through a long life, I have no doubt of its continuance in the next, though without the smallest conceit of meriting such goodness. My sentiments on this head you will see in the copy of an old letter enclosed, which I wrote in answer to an old religionist whom I had relieved in a paralytic case by electricity, and who being afraid I should grow proud upon it, sent me his serious, though rather impudent caution. I send you also the copy of another letter, which will shew something of my disposition relating to religion. With great and sincere esteem and affection, yours, &c.

P. S. Had not your college some present of books from the king of France. Please to let me know if you had an expectation given you of more, and the nature of that expectation? I have a reason for the inquiry.

I confide that you will not expose me to criticisms and censures by publishing any part of this communication to you. I have ever let others enjoy their religious sentiments without reflecting on them for those that appeared to me unsupportable, or even absurd. All sets here, and we have a great variety, have experienced my good will in assisting them with subscriptions for building their new places of worship, and as I have never opposed any of their doctrines, I hope to go out of the world in peace with them all.

* Supposed to be a letter to George Whitfield, dated June 6, 1753.

ANCIENT EPISTLE.

To the Editor of the New-York Daily Advertiser. Sir,—I take the liberty of sending to you for insertion in your useful paper, the following interesting extract from the Ecclesiastical History of Soocrates Scholasticus. It is taken from Hanner's translation of "the Ecclesiastical Histories of the first six hundred years after Christ." Page 229.

A FRIEND TO BIBLE SOCIETIES.

An Epistle from the Emperor Constantine to Eusebius, Bishop of Caesaria in Palestine.

Constantine the puissant, the mighty, and the noble Emperor, unto Eusebius, Bishop of Caesaria, sendeth greeting. Insomuch that in the city which is called after our name, there inhabiteth a great multitude of men (our Saviour Jesus, and God the Father of his Providence sending inreunto) which embraceth the most Holy Church, to the end all the ecclesiastical affairs may in the same place daily increase more and more, we have thought good, that more churches should be erected and builded there. Wherefore accept with loving heart what our will and pleasure is. We have thought good to signify unto thy wisdom, that thou shouldest prepare fifty volumes or copies of Holy Scripture, written in parchment, which shall be both legible, handsome and portable, and that thou command moreover; that they be written of skilful Scriveners, exercised in the art of penning. Our will is that the volumes comprise those books of Holy Scripture whose penning and use thou thyself shall think most necessary to avail for the edifying of the Church. Our Highness hath sent letters unto our head Treasurer, that he should minister all necessities for the provision of these books. It is thy part then to oversee with speed, that these written copies be made ready. Moreover by virtue of these our letters (as right requireth) we give thee liberty to take up two common wagons, for the conveyance of them thither, for so the written copies shall be sooner brought unto us, & so much the better, if one of the Deacons be put in trust therewith, who when he cometh in place, shall find the proof of our liberality. God keep thee in health well beloved brother."

—*Buy street in the principal street for business;* it admitts of the river, and, being very wide, admits of a Mall in its centre, which is now completely shaded from the rays of the sun by the approximation of the boughs of two rows of those umbrageous trees, which enclose a space convenient either as a promenade for walking, or an exchange for commercial transactions. Squares to the amount of 14 or 16 are judiciously interspersed through the town, reliving the monotony resulting from streets crossing each other at right angles, as those of this city do. Circular enclosures surround the centres of those squares, which together with the side walks, are planted with a number of similar ornamental trees.

—*The LOCUSTS.*

From the American Daily Advertiser.

Mr. POULSON.—As I wish to draw the attention of the learned to the rising of the Locusts, which I expect will take place, according to the usual custom, in the month of May next, I thought it might be of use to present it to you, with the Memorandum, and some observations I have made on these wonderful insects, and if you should conclude them worthy of publishing in your paper, they are at your service. Yours, sincerely,

Philadelphia, April 25, 1817. G. De B.

1783.—About the middle of May the Locusts began to rise, and they appeared to be in their prime the first week in June, and by the 22d they had entirely vanished.

1800.—May the 20th the Locusts began to rise, and by the 29th they got to sing. [The weather this month was cool, which I expect was the reason of their resurrection being later than in the year 1783.] They continued coming out of the earth until the beginning of June. The latter end of the month nothing more was to be seen of them.

As soon as they rise or come out of the earth, which is generally after sun-set, they are a homely insect; they then with the utmost haste make for a tree, from under which they commonly rise; as soon as they reach the trunk, they seize a strong hold with their legs, and by using considerable exertion, burst a shell that surrounds them, and from which they extricate themselves, and come out a handsome insect with wings, and then progress up the tree, leaving the shell sticking, and in a few days are fit to fly and sing.

I took notice, that if they are tardy in delivering themselves of their shell, they perish, as it soon becomes so dry that they are not able to get out of it.

During their existence above the surface of the earth, they lead a merry life, but it is a very short one, for they exist but about two months.

The female, with a sharp spern, which she carries in the under and back part of her body, makes an incision through the bark and wood of the small branches of trees, (say generally fruit-trees;) and as she makes the opening, she deposits her eggs, one by the side of the other, and she will continue the incision from three, four to ten inches long, according to the length of the branch.—How long the eggs remain in that situation I did not ascertain; but it is remarkable to reflect, that in due time, those eggs should, in what state or form is unknown to me, fall to the ground, and for a certain number of years, should penetrate into the earth—for they have been found several feet in the earth, and the n., after entering a certain depth, for them gradually to rise, and that an exact period of seventeen years should take place before they come to perfection, and a general resurrection ensue, a wonderful indeed! And, in my opinion, worthy the enquiry of the Philosopher; for I have no doubt, they were created by the Almighty for a wise and useful purpose.

It is very curious, but I never could perceive

that they took any nourishment whatever, nor did they any injury that I could discover, excepting where they make the incision to deposit their eggs.

This incision leaves the branches so tender that they frequently break off with the wind.

—*THE RECORD.*

Is published once a week, and for sale by Mr. Isaac F. Rowe, and 6th daughter of Mr. Thos. Franklin, aged 24. After examining witnesses, a jury of inquest gave a verdict that she came to her death by the Providence of God. She was missing on the 10th April last, and her body was found floating on Monday, last week, near Charles River Bridge.

Brown, in Peleg-Wassett river in Salisbury, on the 19th ult. Mr. Stephen Clark of Saugus, in the 26th year of his age. He, with two others, presumptuously attempting to conduct a raft over Webster's Falls, a thing never before attempted, lost his life, and left a widow and one child to lament his premature death. Diligent search was made for his body, but without success.

Brown, in Boston, Mrs. Mary, wife of Mr.

John F. Rowe, and 6th daughter of Mr. Thos. Franklin, aged 24.

After examining witnesses, a jury of inquest gave a verdict that she came to her death by the Providence of God. She was missing on the 10th April last, and her body was found floating on Monday, last week, near Charles River Bridge.

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